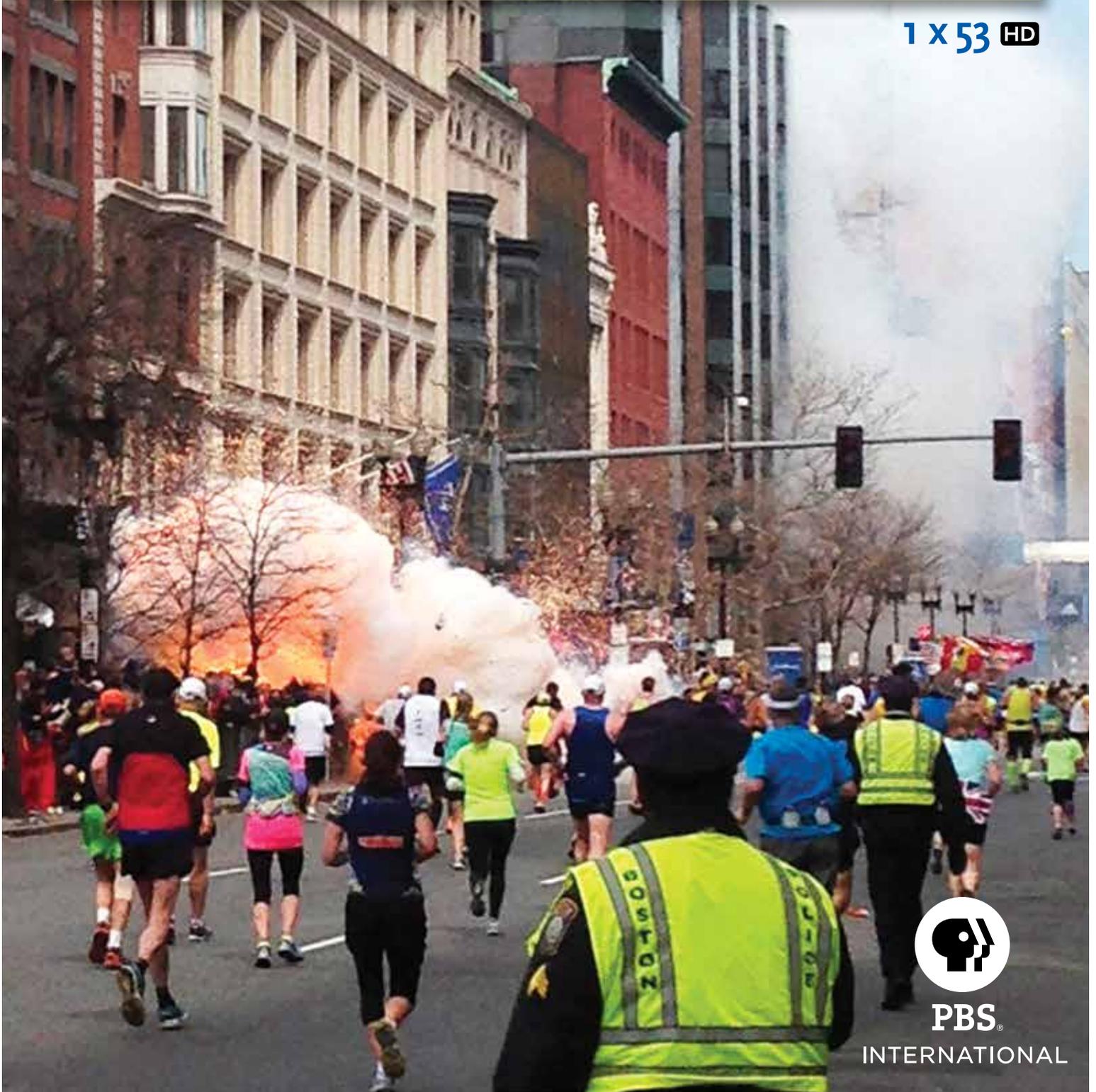


# MANHUNT

## BOSTON BOMBERS

1 X 53 HD



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At 2:49 p.m. on April 15, two bomb blasts turned the Boston Marathon finish line from a scene of triumph to tragedy, leaving three dead, hundreds injured, and a city gripped by heartbreak and terror. Less than five days later, the two key suspects were identified and apprehended with one dead and the other in custody. How did investigators transform the chaos of the bombing into a coherent trail of clues pointing to the accused killers? In *Manhunt – Boston Bombers*, NOVA follows the hunt for the bomb suspects and examines the subsequent investigation conducted by city, state, and national law enforcement, meeting with experts across the country to learn how the case was cracked so quickly.

The NOVA crew travels to New Mexico Technical University's testing range where some of the world's leading experts in explosions demonstrate how investigators identify debris and use chemical analysis to identify the composition of an explosive device. NOVA commissions the construction and detonation of a pressure cooker bomb to show how painstaking analysis of the footage and bomb fragments allows forensic specialists to glean crucial insights into how to best investigate terrorist attacks.

NOVA also visits New York City's Domain Awareness System Command Center where a system created by the New York Police Department and Microsoft enables authorities to monitor a network of 4,000 public and privately owned security cameras in Manhattan. However, their facial recognition system is not powerful or reliable enough to match images that are not head-on and relatively clear. Facial recognition software failed to find a match to the images of the two Marathon bombing suspects captured by the sea of cameras near the finish line. But, at Carnegie Mellon University, scientists demonstrate how experiments in their CyLab are able to analyze the grainy shot of one of the suspects using a new algorithm. The finished product of their work might have made it possible to identify one of the suspects by comparing his photograph against a database of drivers' licenses or passport photos.

*Manhunt – Boston Bombers* explores the phenomenon of social media in tracking the suspects as well. Authorities were reluctant to release the pictures of the suspects as they could prompt them to panic, flee, and commit more violence. But the social-media-fueled "24-second" news cycle forced investigators to release the photos sooner than they wished.

Once the suspects were identified a manhunt ensued, and NOVA uncovers how authorities were able to track them using the carjacked Mercedes' satellite tracking system, and cell phone triangulation technology. NOVA then goes in the air with the Massachusetts State Police helicopter crew whose infrared camera confirmed that a person was hiding in a boat in a Watertown backyard, helping to end the manhunt, and goes behind the scenes to explore the potential surveillance power of future infrared devices currently being developed.

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## NOVA

CREDITS

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